



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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U. S. OFFICERS TO CONTINUE
WATCH ON DOVE BAITING

Vigilance to prevent baiting and illegal shooting of mourning doves will be continued by the Federal Government after the close of the open season, officials of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, announced today after having received intimations that preparations are being made in some localities to bait the birds for post-season shooting.

The migratory bird treaty-act regulations as amended and approved by the President on March 17, 1931, the officials pointed out, prohibit hunting, killing, or taking of mourning doves on or over, at or near, any area which has been baited with salt, corn, wheat or other grain, or other food placed or scattered thereon. Shooting mourning doves after January 31, the last day of the open season, hunters were reminded, will be illegal throughout the United States, and the Government will maintain special enforcement measures.

The mourning dove is a door-yard bird protected at all seasons in many sections of the country, and several southern States have for some years had laws prohibiting shooting over baited fields. The Federal regulation was strongly advocated by game commissioners and many sportsmen in those sections where the practice had continued and had resulted in such destruction of the birds as to threaten serious reduction in their numbers. It is expected that the combined efforts of the State and Federal Governments will put an end to the practice.

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